

A map of the Gulf of Mexico region, showing the coastline of North and Central America. The Gulf of Mexico is colored dark blue, while the surrounding landmasses are green. A white grid of latitude and longitude lines is overlaid on the map. Latitude lines are marked at 20, 25, and 30 degrees North. Longitude lines are marked at 80, 85, 90, 95, and 100 degrees West. The text is overlaid on the map.

Gulf of Mexico Alliance Regional Restoration Coordination Team

Gulf Regional Sediment Management Master Plan (GRSMMP)

2007 Regional Sediment Management Workshop
August 13 – 17, 2007

Gulf Of Mexico Alliance

- A partnership of the Gulf States to increase regional collaboration
 - Enhance ecological and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico
- Recognized by the U.S. Ocean Action Plan
 - Support increased integration of resources and knowledge to address regional issues throughout the Gulf
 - Federal workgroup to support



Governors' Action Plan For Healthy and Resilient Coasts

- Dynamic starting point for effective regional collaboration
- 36-month plan to address critical issues
 - Water quality for healthy beaches & shellfish beds
 - Environmental Education
 - Identification and characterization of habitats
 - Reduction in nutrient inputs to coastal systems
 - Wetland & coastal conservation and Restoration
 - Establishment of the Regional Restoration Coordination Team (RRCT)



Regional Restoration Coordination Team (RRCT)

- Increase coordination of Gulf States to conserve and restore coastal wetlands and other vital habitats throughout the Gulf
 - Federal, State, Local, business, and non-profit partners
- Streamline coastal restoration and conservation efforts
 - Conduct series of meetings to identify critical issues
 - Develop strategy to streamline regulatory processes
 - Examine importance of freshwater inflows
 - Develop partnerships
 - Develop GRSMMP

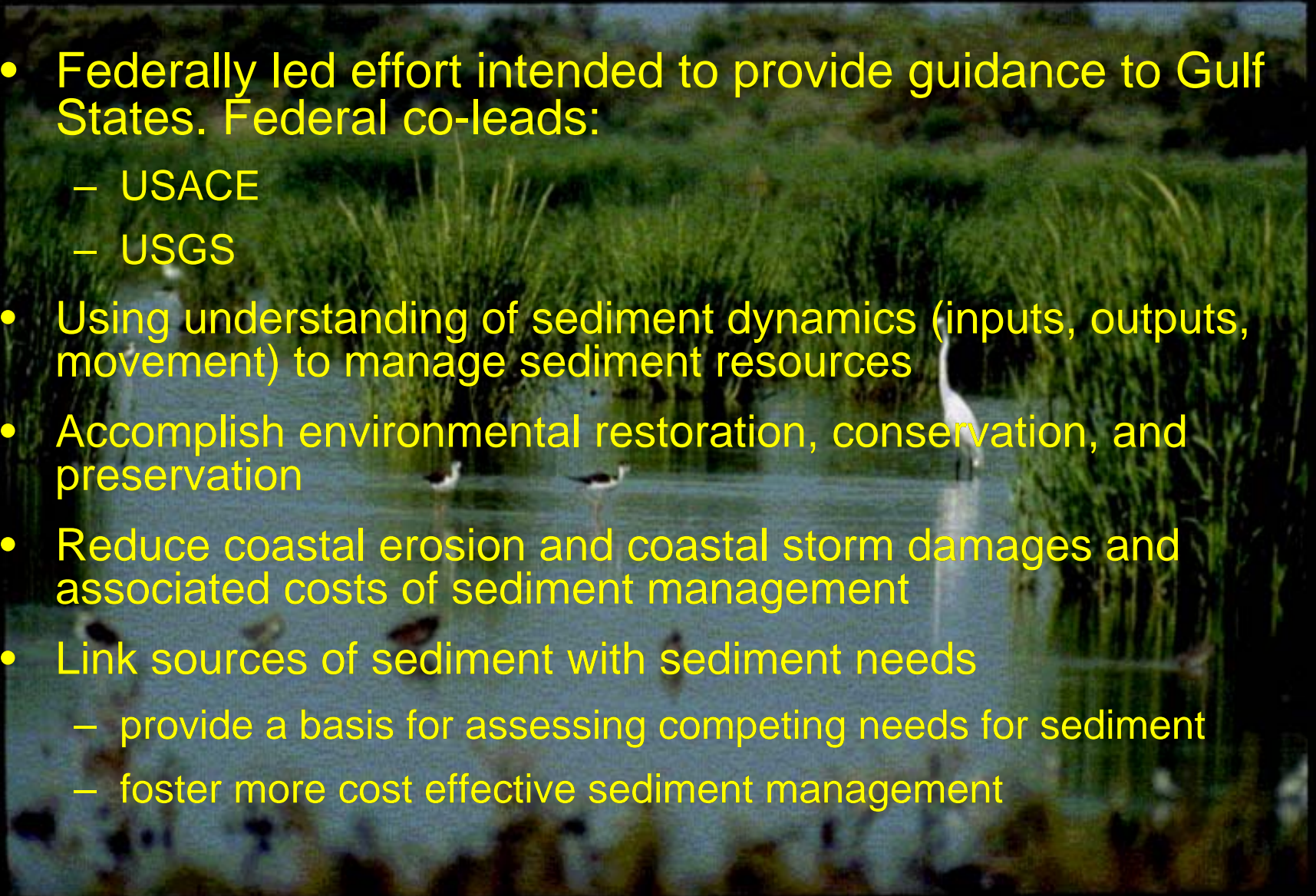


How Does RSM Support Restoration?

- Sediment is a basic element within natural systems
 - Ecosystems and wildlife are affected the most
 - Challenge to states: protect, restore, and conserve these valuable resources
 - develop policies, funding mechanisms, and optimal regional utilization of sediment resources
 - Requires holistic approach
 - recognizing sediment as a regional resource
 - change practice of project specific management
 - more effective management decisions
 - not just moving sediment from one place to another
 - in concert with natural processes
- 

What Should the GRSMMP Do?

- Federally led effort intended to provide guidance to Gulf States. Federal co-leads:
 - USACE
 - USGS
- Using understanding of sediment dynamics (inputs, outputs, movement) to manage sediment resources
- Accomplish environmental restoration, conservation, and preservation
- Reduce coastal erosion and coastal storm damages and associated costs of sediment management
- Link sources of sediment with sediment needs
 - provide a basis for assessing competing needs for sediment
 - foster more cost effective sediment management



Goals

- Develop understanding of sediment system dynamics towards management of sediment resources
- Provide information to inform activities involving sediment and prioritize uses of sediment resources
- Recommend streamlined approach for regulatory and policy processes that considers biodiversity and environmental considerations
- Leverage resources for inter-related programs and projects
- Facilitate effective sediment management across political boundaries
- Use best management practices in managing resources and minimize secondary adverse impacts
- Promote information exchange about Gulf region sediment resources and related management needs
- Inventory available sediment resources and needs
- Encourage stakeholder participation in development and implementation of sediment management strategies

Activities

- Monthly Conference Calls
- Workshops
 - RRCT State Workshops
 - Louisiana (October 2006)
 - Mississippi/Alabama (March 2007)
 - Texas (May 2007)
 - Florida (September 2007)
 - Scientific Assessment Workshop
 - St. Petersburg, FL (December 2006)
 - Gulf Alliance Workshop
 - St. Petersburg, FL (July 2007)



Developments

- Outline of GRSMMP Contents
 - Purpose & Objectives
 - Goals
 - GRSMMP Contents
- GRSMMP Work Plan
 - Outlines tasks and focus areas required to generate the actual GRSMMP
- Questionnaire for States

Problems, Opportunities, Priorities, and Sediment Needs

1. Considering your existing practices for projects involving restoration, conservation, and environmental protection, what are the primary concerns in your state involving RSM (i.e. wetland loss, beach erosion, habitat restoration, etc.) and how can the GRSMMP improve the planning process?
2. What do you perceive to be the key problems and issues that impede regional sediment management in your state and where should efforts be concentrated to support the regional management approach? Are there issues involving regional sediment management across political boundaries?
3. What are the regulatory, policy, and funding constraints that impede regional restoration efforts and sediment management in your area of interest?
4. How important is the establishment of a sediment budget in understanding the sediment processes in relation to managing and planning projects? What do you perceive your sediments needs to be in the near term (10 years) and longer term (50 years) and what sediment type is most desirable?

Direction of GRSMMP

1. What actions, as a group, should be taken as a result of this effort?
2. What are your recommendations to establish key steps to advance the implementation of the GRSMMP? How should we move forward and promote the recommendations that will come out of the GRSMMP?

Focus Areas

- Sediment Resources
 - Sediment Inventory
 - Sediment Budgets
 - Dredging Activities
- Policies, Authorities, and Funding
- Data/Information Management
- Ecological Components of RSM
- State Sediment Needs (TBD)



Subgroups

- **Sediment Resources**

- Sediment Inventory - Co-leads: Jeff Williams (USGS) and Juan Moya (TX). Compile information about existing studies and programs; sediment availability; characteristics, etc.
- Sediment Budgets - Co-leads: Syed Khalil (LA) and Jeff Waters (ERDC). Sediment budget and related process information
- Dredging Activities - Co-leads: Larry Parson (Corps) and Greg Ducote (LA). Assemble Corps and other dredging information into database

- **Policies, Authorities, and Funding**

- Co-leads - John Bowie (EPA), Ray Newby (TX), Lynn Martin (IWR), Carl Ferraro (AL), Kris Benson (NOAA), and Rafael Calderon (TNC).
- Provide recommendations to provide more flexibility in policies and authorities to facilitate RSM approach

- **Data/Information Management**

- Co-leads Marty McGuire (NOAA) and Chris Cretini (USGS). Florida rep expressed interest to participate
- PHINS identified as platform for GRSMMMP

- **Ecological Components of RSM**

- Co-lead – Rafael Calderon (TNC) and Carl Ferraro (AL)
- Identify ecological issues to be considered when utilizing the RSM in connection with restoration activities

- **State Sediment Needs (TBD)**

What Next?

- Continue input from states
- Development of products, milestones, and schedules
- Compile and assimilate outputs from focus areas
- GRSMMP format
 - Guidance to states
 - Recommendations to appropriate levels